



Making Informed Decisions for Secondary Participation in an R21 Program Announcement After Multiple Releases

Charlotte Pratt, PhD, Program Director, and Jeanette Duggan, Program Analyst, National Heart Lung, and Blood Institute

ABSTRACT

Background: Many NIH Institutes, for example, NHLBI, NCI, NIGMS, and NIDDK do not support the parent R21 (NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (PA-13-303). Often, targeted approaches to funding opportunity announcements are used or topics of special interests (TOSIs) to the Institute are published to encourage the scientific community to submit research related to the Institute's mission. However, the criteria for making decisions to participate in an R21 exploratory developmental grant program or to develop TOSIs are not uniform across Institutes. This abstract provides an illustration of the portfolio analysis of multiple releases of the R21 (PA-06-256; 09-124 and 12-179) Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant in Obesity to help the NHLBI decide on whether to participate or not as a secondary Institute. **Methods:** We used QVR to obtain applications funded using the PAs; and PubMed, QVR, and Google Scholar for publications and citations. **Results:** Our results as of April 2015 indicated 280 applications were received by all Institutes, 63 applications were assigned to NHLBI, and 17 applications were funded by all assigned Institutes. Of the 63 applications, 6 (9.5%) were funded by NHLBI. Only 3 publications originated from the 6 funded applications. However these 3 applications had 16 citations. This presentation uses INSPIRE to highlight the research topics from multiple releases of the PA and also examines related program announcements to PA-12-179. It offers recommendations to guide decisions to participate or not as a secondary Institute in program announcements.

METHODS

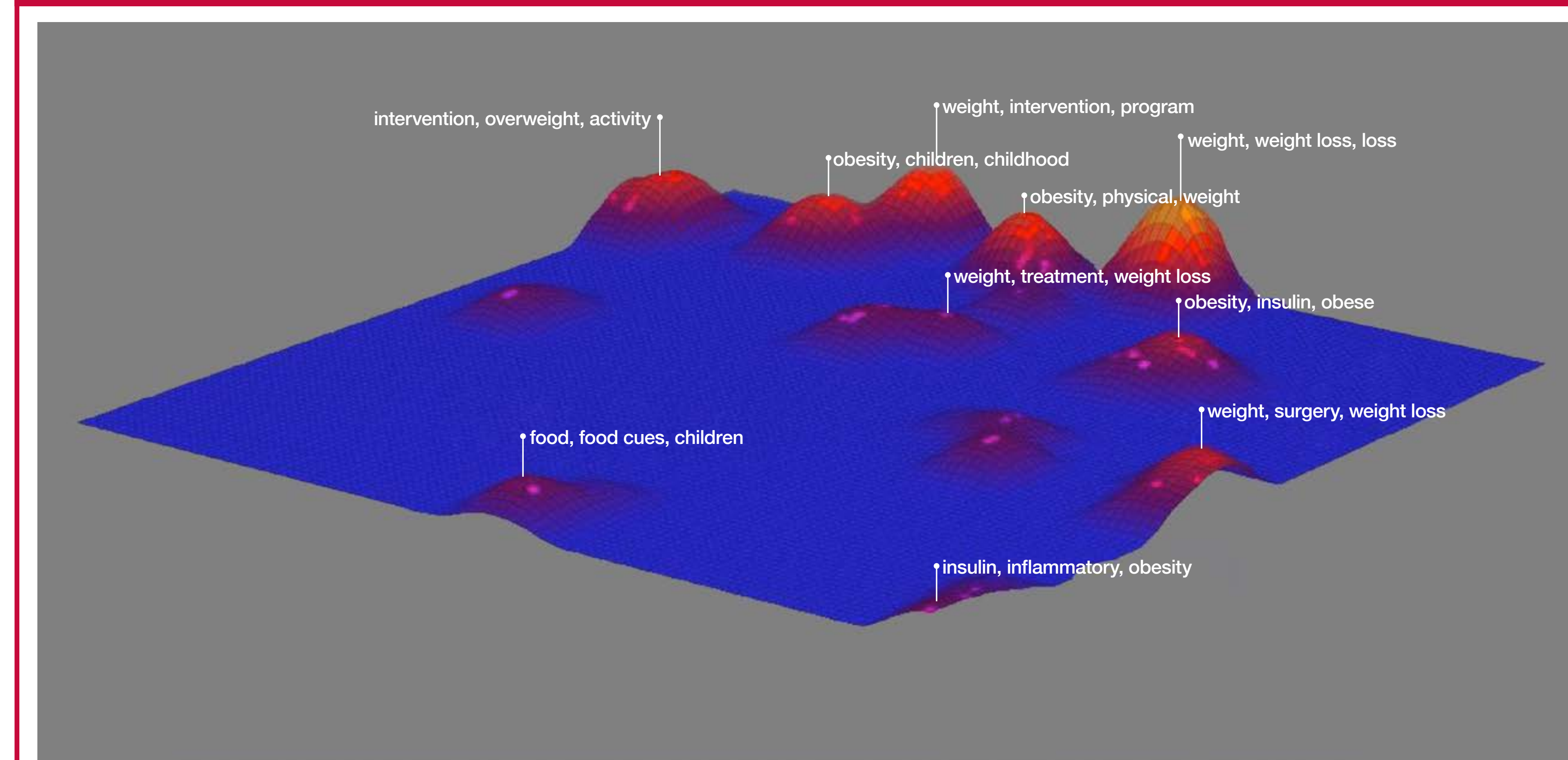
- We used QVR to obtain applications funded using three releases of the PA: PA-06-256; PA-09-124 and PA-12-179 (FY 2007-2014).
- We used INSPIRE to examine clusters of topics funded under the various PAs.
- We examined related PAs that were not funded in response to the PA 12-179.
- For publications and citations we used PubMed, QVR, Google Scholar

RESULTS

What are the yields (# of applications received, # assigned, # funded by NHLBI and other ICs?) from three releases of the PA from 2000 through 2010?

| | # of applications assigned to all Institutes | # assigned to NHLBI | # funded by ICs | # funded by NHLBI |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| PA-06-256 | 191 | 45 | 17 | 5 |
| PA-09-124 | 188 | 39 | 9 | 4 |
| PA-12-179 | 280 | 63 | 17 | 6 |

Themes of Active Research Grants (PA-12-179 Exploratory Developmental Research Grants in Obesity (R21))



R21 PAs related to the Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant in Obesity PA

| FOA | Applications Received | # Funded by All ICs | # of Publications | # Assigned to NHLBI | # Funded by NHLBI |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| PA-13-154 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| PA-13-016 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PA-12-209 | 52 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| PA-12-184 | 73 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| PA-12-179 | 280 | 17 | 3 | 63 | 6 |
| PA-12-125 | 269 | 15 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| PA-11-212 | 49 | 2 | 0 | 25 | 1 |
| PA-10-128 | 69 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| PA-10-028 | 62 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 1 |
| PA-09-141 | 50 | 1 | 11 | 10 | 1 |
| PA-09-124 | 188 | 9 | 9 | 39 | 4 |
| PA-06-417 | 43 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| PA-06-256 | 191 | 17 | 24 | 45 | 5 |
| Total | 1,471 | 84 | 74 | 207 | 19 |

SUMMARY

- A range of 4.8% to 8.9% of applications were funded by all participating institutes during the three releases of the R21- exploratory developmental research grants in obesity.
- About 10% of applications assigned to NHLBI were funded for all three releases.
- Obesity research themes include interventions in childhood obesity, physical activity and weight loss treatment.
- Ten other related program announcements were released during the same period as the exploratory developmental grant in obesity R21s but fewer applications were received in response to those applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Decisions to participate or not as a secondary Institute in program announcements should be guided by portfolio analysis.
- It is helpful to review related and active R21 program announcements prior to participating as a secondary institute. Program staff could encourage potential applicants to use related active FOAs or the parent R01 especially for ICs that do not support the parent R21.
- Use of INSPIRE enables identification of areas of need or gaps in research topics that could be listed in the FOA as special topics of interest to inform potential applicants.